

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 MC-02 /079 W

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P R 111700Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5666

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1857

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NL, MASS

SUBJ: LABOR PARTY CONGRESS: F-104 REPLACEMENT

1. LABOR PARTY CONGRESS AFTERNOON APRIL 11 UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION CALLING ON GON TO REPLACE F-104S WITH LIMITED ROLE AIRCRAFT. RESOLUTION, SUPPORTED BY PARTY ADMINISTRATION AND GREAT NUMBER OF SPEAKERS, PASSED AFTER RESOLUTION ASKING GON NOT REPLACE F104'S AT ALL FAILED BY RATHER NARROW MARGIN.

2. DURING DAY IN WHICH MOD VREDELING CAME UNDER STRONG CRITICISM FROM DELEGATES WITH REGARD TO HIS APRIL 10 STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD RESIGN IF HIS PARTY IN SECOND CHAMBER VOTED AGAINST HIS RECOMMENDATION ON F104 REPLACEMENT (THE HAGUE 1849 NOTAL), IT BECAME CLEAR THAT LABOR PARTY DELEGATES DID NOT SUPPORT MINISTER ON THIS ISSUE. ONLY APPEAL FROM VAN THIJN, FLOOR LEADER FOR LABOR PARTY IN SECOND CHAMBER, AVERTED CONGRESS VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THEIR MINISTER. VAN THIJN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DEEP CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN PARLIA-
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MENTARY GROUP AND DEFMIN BUT HE STRESSED THAT THIS NO

TIME TO FORMALLY EXPRESS NO CONFIDENCE IN MINISTER.
VAN THIJN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CABINET HAS YET TO TAKE
DECISION ON F104 REPLACEMENT AND THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL
FACTORS, INCLUDING ACTIONS OF THE CONGRESS, WHICH WILL
CERTAINLY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY GOVERNMENT.

3. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT PARTS OF UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
PARTY MOTION:

CONGRESS OF LABOR PARTY DECLARES THAT IF (LIMITED)
REPLACEMENT FOR STARFIGHTER IS DECIDED ON, AIRCRAFT
MUST BE CHOSEN WHICH TECHNICALLY AND QUALITATIVELY
WILL NOT BE ADVANCED TO THE EXTENT THAT IT WILL GIVE
THE ARMAMENTS RACE A NEW STIMULUS AND WHICH CAN NOT AND/OR
MAY NOT PERFORM NUCLEAR TASKS, AND THEREFORE NO LIMITED
ONES EITHER, ALL THIS IN CONFORMITY WITH LABOR PARTY'S
OWN DEFENSE POLICY...AND INSTRUCTS PARTY EXECUTIVE
BOARD AND LABOR PARTY IN SECOND CHAMBER TO TAKE WHAT-
EVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY WHEN GOVERNMENT SHOULD DECIDE
ON A (LIMITED) REPLACEMENT OF THE STARFIGHTER TO HAVE
A REASONABLY CHEAP AIRCRAFT CHOSEN WHICH IS
SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THE LIMITED TASK OF GIVING
DIRECT AIR-SUPPORT WITH CONVENTIONAL WEAPON-SYSTEMS
TO GROUND ARMED FORCES AND WHICH CAN NOT AND/OR MAY
NOT PERFORM LIMITED OR OTHER NUCLEAR TASKS.
GOULD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, PARTY LINE, AIRCRAFT SALES, PARTY ELECTIONS, PARTY MEETINGS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THEHA01857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750127-0612
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750456/aaaabzzv.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 OCT 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR PARTY CONGRESS: F-104 REPLACEMENT
TAGS: PINT, MASS, NL, LABOR PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006